

**JOINT DECLARATION OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH
OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES
REGARDING
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PANDEMIC INFLUENZA
PREPAREDNESS**

The Department of Health and Human Services of the United States of America (HHS) and the Secretariat of Health of the United Mexican States (SSA),

Realizing influenza pandemics have occurred three times in the last century, and history and science suggest that our countries and the world could face one or more pandemics in this century;

Recognizing a pandemic can cause severe illness, death, and disruption throughout the world, and outbreaks can occur in many different locations all at the same time;

Understanding preparation for an influenza pandemic requires coordinated action at all levels of government and all sectors of society, including businesses, schools, faith-based and community organizations, families, and individuals;

Acknowledging the Governments of the United States of America and the United Mexican States are coordinating their respective multi-sector national responses, which include the monitoring of international and domestic outbreaks, and the provision of funding and technical assistance to their States to foster preparedness, stockpiling, and distributing countermeasures and developing new treatments, as appropriate;

Realizing the Governments of the United States of America and the United Mexican States, and their respective political subdivisions, are responsible under their own authorities for responding to an outbreak within their own jurisdictions and for having comprehensive pandemic preparedness plans and measures in place to protect their citizens; and

Appreciating the special characteristics and dynamics of the 2,000-mile border shared between the United States and México and the existing collaboration between the HHS and SSA through such venues as the Security and Prosperity Partnership, the

United States-México Border Health Commission, and the United States-México Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance Project, all of which foster and strengthen Federal-State, State-State, and U.S.-México border collaboration;

Issue this Joint Declaration:

HHS and SSA, the State Health Departments of the ten United States and México border States and the United States-México Border Health Commission, share common goals and interest in influenza planning and preparedness while recognizing independent Federal/State responsibilities for influenza planning and preparedness, as well as respective strengths and roles.

HHS and SSA intend to lend their leadership to, and work together with, the State health departments of the ten United States and México border States and the United States-México Border Health Commission on border pandemic influenza preparedness in order to enable strong community response, effective surveillance, and sustainable systems of communication and information sharing for the well-being and protection of U.S. and Mexican citizens who reside along our border.

Such measures should include preparedness plans that are continuously exercised and updated to make sure they work and to achieve a stronger level of preparedness, and pandemic preparedness that help communities deal with any type of medical emergency and have lasting benefits for the health of any Nation.

SIGNED this _____ day of _____, 2006.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF
HEALTH OF THE
UNITED MEXICAN STATES

Witnessed by:

State of Arizona

State of Baja California

State of California

State of Chihuahua

State of Coahuila

State of New Mexico

State of Nuevo Leon

State of Sonora

State of Tamaulipas

State of Texas